

the annual March for Life in January here in our nation's capital.

As a former board member of Missouri Right-to-Life, I knew the work of Dr. Shen well and admired it greatly.

Dr. Shen was a man of action. He admired Mother Theresa's work and told his family he was going to convince her to bring her Sisters of Charity to St. Louis to work with the poor. Many in the community were doubtful but Dr. Shen moved forward and today, the Sisters are in the City of St. Louis. In fact, a full row of the Sisters were at Dr. Shen's funeral mass.

Dr. Shen's funeral mass was about "Choosing Life," a text taken from Deuteronomy 30:5-12. Archbishop Justin Rigali of the Diocese of St. Louis quoted the Apostle Paul in referring to Dr. Shen, noting that he had "fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith."

There can be few higher epitaphs than that. Dr. Shen did, indeed, fight faithfully and well for the right to life that our Declaration of Independence affirms is intrinsic to all of us. For that, he deserves the thanks of a grateful nation. He certainly has mine.

NO CFCs FOR 25 YEARS

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate this Saint Patrick's Day and all that is green, I would like to point to another important "green" milestone associated with March 17. Twenty-five years ago, on March 17, 1978, the Environmental Protection Agency promulgated regulations prohibiting the further use of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) propellants from almost all aerosol products manufactured and sold in the United States. Even before that date, many U.S. manufacturers of aerosols voluntarily removed CFCs in response to environmental concerns linking CFCs to the depletion of the earth's protective ozone layer.

Today, CFCs are used in only very rare and special circumstances, such as for medical uses like asthma inhalers, and even many of these "essential uses" are switching to non-CFC alternatives. Under the Montreal Protocol, more than 160 countries joined the United States and agreed to cease production of CFCs except for medical products.

When environmental concerns over the impact of CFCs on the ozone first arose, producers undertook the extremely difficult and costly task of reformulating and retesting hundreds of products in order to assure that the new propellants would perform as well as CFC propellants had. But importantly, the U.S. aerosol industry not only complied with the 1978 regulation, it in fact led the way for the rest of the world.

Unfortunately though, public perception has not caught up with reality. Public opinion polls, taken as recently as last year, have found that nearly half of all consumers—48%—are still unaware of the 25-year-old regulations that prohibit the use of CFCs in aerosols. This has often led consumers, unaware that aerosols cause no harm to the Earth's protective ozone layer, to bypass today's environmentally safe aerosol products.

Research has shown that consumers are still being influenced by incorrect information regarding the environmental impact of aerosols and many are avoiding them as a result. This is unfortunate because there are a number of inherent benefits to be gained from the aerosol delivery system, such as the consistency of an aerosol spray which minimizes waste.

Shaving cream, hair spray, spray paint, bug spray, fragrant body sprays, spray starch, and aerosol air fresheners, just to mention a few, are all aerosol products. And like all aerosol products, these do not contain CFCs. In addition to being CFC free, most aerosol packages are made of steel which, when empty, are also recyclable in many communities.

The companies in the aerosol industry have worked hard to produce products that are efficacious and environmentally sound. In other words, they work, and they don't harm the Earth's protective ozone layer. The more than 100,000 Americans directly employed in the aerosol industry are proud of their companies and their products, and rightly so.

March 17 will always be a day when we associate the color green with St. Patrick's Day, but it should also be a date that reminds us that U.S.-produced aerosols have been CFC free and environmentally friendly since 1978.

A VETERAN'S OPINION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a letter to the editor that was printed in The Manchester Enterprise, of Manchester, Michigan, written by one of my constituents, Larry Byrne, a Vietnam veteran.

"To the editor:

'Manchester Area People for Peace,' . . . if not for using the Manchester name in your group's cause, I'd never taken the time to write this article.

I know as a Marine Corps Sergeant serving two hours of duty in Vietnam, my views may be slightly different from those that are active in the 'people for peace' camp. I do hope you realize this doesn't mean the rest of us that enjoy living in our peaceful community would rather live elsewhere, just because we don't share your views on this serious matter.

Peace is a state of mind that the majority of Americans have the right and privilege to share. We should never take it for granted nor believe that it didn't come at a very high cost. Hundreds of thousands of men and women gave their lives so that we could live in peace.

Our country has made its mistakes throughout its history when it comes to war. Maybe we should have helped remove a crazed paperhanger much earlier than we did, but as Pearl Harbor was bombed they talked peace.

Maybe we should have not been drawn into the Vietnam 'crisis.' I was sent to Vietnam after some 35,000 Americans gave their lives doing what their country requested of them. I was only 19 at the time and I'll never forget discussing with other Marines the hurt and anger we'd feel when we would read the Stars & Stripes newspaper. Articles and pictures showing our fellow Americans protesting back home only seemed to demoralize us and

strengthen our enemy. This brings us to current events. Does anyone really believe Iraq's hostile government or any terrorist organizations would not let us live in peace if not for the threat of war? Therefore, it seems this great nation of ours with all its flaws has been given the role of 'peacekeeper.' To those of you don't like this position for our country, I ask . . . to whom do we give it? Germany would have gladly taken the role of 60 years ago, but now they just want to direct the leaders.

Japan, like Germany, somewhat graciously relinquished the role and decided to build better cars.

Canada—just joking, eh?

From France, a newspaper ad: 'French military rifle for sale. Never fired, dropped once.'

United Nations? Please, the UN has proven totally ineffective with the Iraq situation.

On the other hand, what if nobody did anything? I don't know if isolationism could work in our small world today, but if we were all willing to give up a lot, who knows?

A new song came out called, 'Have you Forgotten.' I suggest as you're walking on the bridge with your peace signs you listen to it. Who knows, you may learn something. By the way, don't try this in Tienanmen Square.

Personally and perhaps most of us that served in our country's military, especially in Vietnam, would appreciate you not using our town's name of Manchester to promote your ideas. Again, I respect your rights and privileges to do so, but don't draft me by name association to be a participant in your point of view.

Da Nang, 1969 or Manchester 2003—strong believes don't change . . . you're hurting us and helping them."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Byrne for writing this letter.

TRIBUTE TO THE MORRIS HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate the member of the Morris Robotics Team from Morris High School in the South Bronx for their remarkable work and achievements.

Three years ago, thanks to Gary Israel, a history teacher, and a \$5,000 award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the school started a robotics team. Mr. Israel campaigned to raise \$25,000 from local sponsors, encouraged skeptical parents and faculty, and gathered a team of 15 students who built a robot named Bulldog. This robot placed 3rd out of 38 at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) regional competition in New York, demonstrating the robot's agility and basketball skills, as well as its creators' teamwork. The Morris team worked with graduate students from Columbia University's School of Engineering to construct the robot, combining the technical knowledge of the engineers with the mechanical abilities of the teenagers.

Morris High School has received support from many sponsors, such as: the Columbia University School of Engineering, the Fu Foundation and Applied Science, NASA, the

North Folk Bank, the McGraw Hill Companies, the New York Yankees, ABC, and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. Secretary of State Colin Powell, a graduate of Morris High, presented the members of the Morris Robotics Team a gold coin in honor of the team's achievements over the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, the Morris Robotics Team has mentored students at I.S. 162 since they decided to join in the FIRST Lego League competition and looked for support. Morris High School students have been working at the school since October 2002, and thanks to this, on February 8, 2003, members of the Morris Robotics Team and I.S. 162 students competed for and won the 2003 First Lego Competition Director's Award. The Director's Award is given to the team that is best in five key elements of the Technical and Team Performance Awards.

Morris High School also competed the weekend of March 8 with 60 other high schools around the country in competition for mentoring/coaching a winning middle school team. The Morris Robotics Team is the only New York City high school that has traveled to Richmond, Virginia, to compete in the NASA/Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) South-Atlantic Regional FIRST Robotics Competition on March 6–8. On Friday, at the conclusion of the first day of competition, Morris High School won the Imagery Award, which celebrates attractiveness in engineering and outstanding visual aesthetic integration of the robot and the team appearance. At the end of the competition on Saturday, March 9, the Morris Robotics Team received the top trophy as the South Atlantic FIRST Robotics Winner. The Morris Team has the opportunity to be a dual regional winner when they compete in the New York City High School Robotics Regionals on March 21 and 22.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the members of the team: Sherelle Benjamin, Malik Shuford, Sashanna Saunchess, Angel Alvarado, Walson Ty, Makeba Higgins, Tyrue Green, Jose Vanderpool, Mark Banks, Isaias Guity, Alison Green, Cruz Mayelyn De Los Santos, Uche Nwosu, Daniel Nwosu and Edwin Ruiz.

This team has demonstrated that they have the ability and the desire to be assets and role models in our community. We are proud of their accomplishments and I am confident they will continue to be successful. They are terrific examples for students throughout our schools and communities.

Again, I congratulate them and I wish them the best of luck in their future activities and

competitions. They are our champions and our future leaders!

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to and congratulating the Morris High School Robotics Team in the South Bronx.

HELP EFFICIENT, ACCESSIBLE,
LOW-COST, TIMELY HEALTHCARE
(HEALTH) ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the bill before the House, H.R. 5, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act of 2003. I believe it is important that Congress act to address the medical malpractice crisis that has begun to threaten access to care around the country.

I will vote for this legislation because I view our current medical malpractice system as in a state of crisis, and I think it is important to begin the legislative process needed to preserve access to care for all Americans. I do, however, believe that that the bill could be improved and I encourage our colleagues in the Senate to be open to constructive suggestions that address legitimate concerns from members on both sides of the aisle. For example, I am concerned that the \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages in this bill is too low. As a former state insurance commissioner, I recognize that caps can be useful to providing predictability and stability in the insurance market. But I also believe that a higher cap on such damages would be more appropriate without undermining predictability or significantly raising premiums.

I think it is important that we recognize that there are other dynamics of the medical malpractice crisis that need to be considered, and we should view this reform proposal as only one part of a comprehensive solution. Just this week, as my colleagues know, the House passed legislation that I cosponsored dealing with medical errors reporting and reduction, creating what is intended to be a "feedback loop" for health care systems. I hope my colleagues will share my view that once the House passes this medical malpractice reform bill, it will mark only the beginning of a dialogue to help stabilize our health care system

while protecting appropriate consumer remedies. To be certain, this is a difficult balance to strike within a complex set of issues, and I urge my House and Senate colleagues alike to remain open to bipartisan efforts to improve this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 17, 2003

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to travel to Washington for the legislative week beginning on March 10, 2003 as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident. I have included a letter from my physician stating that his medical judgment was that I not drive or fly extensively for the week after the accident. Had I been present in Washington for votes, it was my intention to vote in the following ways:

Rollcall No. 50—"aye."
Rollcall No. 51—"aye."
Rollcall No. 52—"aye."
Rollcall No. 53—"aye."
Rollcall No. 54—"aye."
Rollcall No. 55—"aye."
Rollcall No. 56—"aye."
Rollcall No. 57—"aye."
Rollcall No. 58—"aye."
Rollcall No. 59—"aye."
Rollcall No. 60—"aye."
Rollcall No. 61—"aye."
Rollcall No. 62—"aye."
Rollcall No. 63—"no."
Rollcall No. 64—"no."

CARLE TRAUMA CENTER,
Urbana, IL, March 11, 2003.

Re Mr. Tim Johnson.

To Whom It May Concern:

U.S. Representative Tim Johnson was hospitalized at Carle Foundation Hospital under my care the week of March 9th due to trauma suffered in a car accident. It was my medical judgment that he not fly or drive extensively for at least a week after the trauma. It would be dangerous and potentially life-threatening if he were to do so given the trauma to his lungs and rib cage, and potential damage to lungs and/or heart.

Sincerely,

URETZ J. OLIPHANT, MD, FACS,
Director, Trauma Services.